



# Borough of Welshpool.

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**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the**

**YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939.**

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Welshpool,  
October, 1940.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Welshpool.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

The delay in presenting this report is due to war conditions, the statistics and mortality returns having only lately been received from the General Register Office.

## **SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.**

Area (in acres) 20,426.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1939, 5291.

Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rate, 5397.

Number of inhabited houses, 1749.

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate, £26548, £102.

Unemployment.—On enquiry at the Labour Exchange I find there are now under 100 unemployed on their books,

these are chiefly men approaching the unemployable age of 65 years.

Welshpool is an Agricultural District.

### VITAL STATISTICS:—

#### Live Births:—

	M.	F.
Legitimate ... ..	35	36
Illegitimate ... ..	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	36	39

Total:—75 giving a birth rate of 14.08 per thousand of the population.

This compares with 15.01 for 1938, and 17.6 for 1937, and 15 for England and Wales 1939.

There was only one still birth.

#### Deaths:—

45 Male and 33 Female. Total:—78 making the death rate for 1939 14.6.

There were NO deaths from Puerperal causes.

Death Rate of Infants under one year:—53 per 1000 live births, comparing with 50 per 1000 for England and Wales.

Only one illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

#### Deaths from:—

Cancer, 8 male and 4 female.

Measles, Nil.

Whooping Cough, Nil.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Nil.

There was no excessive or unusual mortality during the year requiring comment.

## SECTION B:—

The Public Health Officers remain as last year.

- (a) Laboratory. An emergency Public Health Service is established at Aberystwyth where conditions likely to be of bacteriological origin can be investigated.
- (b) Ambulance—No change.
- (c) Home Nursing—No change.
- (e) Treatment Centres and Clinics—No change.
- (f) Hospitals—are as in former years.

## SECTION C;—

**Water:—**

After some years of experimenting with the use of chlorine and ammonia, chloroclocks have been installed.

A report on the Town's water after filtration and treatment is attached and the quality is shewn to be excellent.

The quality of the Guilsfield spring has deteriorated and in spite of inspections the source of the pollution has not been discovered.

The spring has now been fenced off and this may have the desired result, in the meantime the supply has been chlorinated.

Latest analytical reports on this water are attached.

**Certificate of Analysis.**

(Bacteriological).

Marked Storage Tank; Welshpool Waterworks.

Sample of water received on 25/6/40.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 days at 20°C 1 per c.c.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 48 hrs. at 37°C 7 per c.c.

B. Coli (Lactose Indol) present in—

B. Coli (Lactose Indol) absent in 100 c.c.'s.

This sample is very satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M. Sc., F.I.C.

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**Certificate of Analysis.**

Sample of water received 17th, September, 1940.

Marked from standpipe in Groes, 16/9/40. 12.30 p.m.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 days at 20° C 1 per c.c.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 48hrs. at 37°C 50 per c.c.

Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli present—B. Coli absent  
in 100 c.c.

Faecal Coli. (44°C MacConkey test) absent in 100 c.c.

This sample is very satisfactory.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.

### Certificate of Analysis.

(Bacteriological.)

Sample of water received on 19/12/39.

Marked supply to storage tank at Groes, Nr. Welshpool.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 dys. at 20° C 580 per 1  
c.c.

No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 48 hrs. at 37° C 10 per  
c.c.

B. Coli (Lactose Indol) present in 50 c.c.

B. Coli (Lactose Indol) absent in 20 c.c.'s.

Further purification of this water is desirable.

(Signed) HAROLD LOWE, M. Sc., F.I.C.

The very severe frosts of last winter interfered with the supply of water to those houses built near the top water line at the reservoirs, more especially at the new estate at Westwood. For a period of some weeks more bursts were caused than the plumbers could deal with and in addition it was found that a number of tenants opened their taps at night to prevent their water systems freezing up. This left about 30 houses with only an intermittent supply until the bursts were repaired.

As a result of this the Council have offered to install pumping plant and extra storage for the Westwood area at a cost of £300, if the owners will contribute £100, and negotiations are in progress.

There was no shortage of water either at Guilsfield or Welshpool.

Extensions of the main were carried out at Westwood,



Bronwylfa, and Salop Road in Welshpool, and the main in Cwilsfield was also extended.

The minimum waste line at night inspections recorded during the year was 1300 gallons per hour. Night inspections for locating wastage of water were held weekly. The distributing system is divided into three districts, one district being tested each week.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Very occasional flooding of the Severn Valley took place for short periods during exceptional rain storms.

The main sewer has been extended to Church Bank, Westwood and Bronwylfa estates.

The main sewer in Salop road and the section passing through the Foundry fields has been cleaned out.

**Rivers and Streams.**—A survey of the River Severn in Montgomeryshire was carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health and his report has been submitted to the County Council.

**Closet Accommodation.**—There was no change during the year.

**Shops and Offices.**—All the provisions of the Shops Acts appear to have been complied with and it was not found necessary to take any proceedings.

**Smoke Abatement.**—No action has been taken to abate nuisance from smokes, there being no complaints in this report.

**Swimming Baths.**—All arrangements had been made for

starting on this scheme; tenders had been invited, and provisional acceptance of that submitted by Messrs. W. A. Sherrat, of Church Stretton, had been given. Owing to the outbreak of the war and the withdrawal of the government grant the scheme was abandoned.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No action has been found necessary.

**Schools.**—Schools in the Borough were inspected periodically and action was found necessary at Gungrog Road School where the sanitary accommodation was brought up to modern standards.

#### **SECTION D.—HOUSING.**

During the year under review, the final rehousing of tenants in slum clearance areas was carried out. After service of demolition notices the houses in four areas have been demolished and the areas cleared. No action has been taken with regard to other areas.

The Council's Officers have been instructed to make a comprehensive survey of the existing housing accommodation—owing to pressure of war work little progress has yet been made.

**Milk Supplies.**—Twelve inspections have been carried out in connection with the issue of licenses under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926 and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders of 1936 and 1938, and at the end of the year 18 producers in the Borough held accredited milk producers licenses. Seven applications were received for registration under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926 and six premises were registered.

**Meat and Other Foods.**—At the outbreak of war a scheme

for centralisation of the slaughter of animals was started, with headquarters at Newtown. This has meant the closure of all private slaughter houses in the Borough.

The meat is now being delivered to the local butchers by covered motor lorry. Inspections have been made at intervals, although at first conditions were not too satisfactory. These have been rectified and there is now no cause for complaint.

#### SECTION F.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A remarkable absence of Infectious disease was noticed in 1939, in fact it was almost entirely absent, vide attached table:—

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	6	3	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	1	1	—

The case of Scarlet Fever was in a child of 10 and the cerebro-spinal fever case in a boy of 14, this latter was sent to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital and recovered.

Of the six Pneumonia cases, their ages were:—, 8, 17, 62, 74, 82 and 84 years of age.



**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	...—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—	...—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	...—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upw'ds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—

It is most satisfactory to note that during the year there was no death from Tuberculosis.

One hundred and three years ago, i.e., when registration of deaths began in 1837, the first Register shows that approximately 45 per cent. of the registered deaths were due to "Consumption", "Decline" or "Scrofula", incidentally the Death Rate in those days was approximately 30 per 1000 population in a normal year.

Your obedient servant,

J. A. CRUMP.

